



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

## Public Safety Services



M. J. "MIKE FOSTER, JR.  
GOVERNOR

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STATE FIRE MARSHAL

### INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2002 - 14

To: Plan Review Staff  
Fire Alarm Contractors  
Inspections  
Licensed Architects  
Licensed Civil Engineers

From: Don Zeringue – Chief Architect

Re: Signage for the Visually Impaired for Special Locking Systems

Date: October 8, 2002

The Life Safety Code addresses signage that is accessible to the visually impaired at Exit Stairs (101:7.10.1.3) and at Elevators (A101: 7.10.8.2). It is reasonable to derive that the intent of the code is to provide tactile signage (raised characters and Braille) at points in the required means of exit egress that might provide an impediment to exiting to the visually impaired. Therefore it is the formal interpretation of this office that tactile exit signage shall be located at Access-Controlled Egress doors and at each door with a Delayed-Egress locking device. Tactile signage shall comply with CABO/ANSI A117.1, *American National Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities*, and shall be installed adjacent to the latch side of the door, 60 in. above the finished floor to the centerline of the sign.

Tactile signage at doors with a Delayed-Egress locking device shall comply with 101:7.2.1.6.1(d) and shall state:

**PUSH EXIT HARDWARE UNTIL ALARM SOUNDS  
DOOR CAN BE OPENED IN 15 SECONDS**

Tactile signage at Access-Controlled Egress doors shall comply with 101:7.6.1.6.2(c) and shall state:

**PUSH TO EXIT**

This policy will be in effect for all Access-Controlled Egress Doors and Delayed-Egress Locking Systems reviewed and installed after January 1, 2003.

Is Yours Working"??  
Smoke Detectors Save Lives !!  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
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